

21. Apparatus according to any of the preceding claims wherein the apparatus is a hand held apparatus adapted to be pressed against the skin of a user and cut hair on said skin at or near the surface of the skin.

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22. A method of cutting hair from an area of skin with a vibrating heat-generating element, comprising:

a) heating an elongate element to a temperature high enough to cut the hair;

b) placing the heated elongate element against the area; and

10 c) vibrating the element in a direction perpendicular to a long axis thereof, so that it makes multiple passes over the area during the placing.

23. A method according to claim 22 further comprising collecting the cut hair.

15 24. A method according to claim 23 including moving the cut hair into a receptacle.

25. A method according to any of claims 22-24 wherein the elongate element is a wire.

20 26. A method according to any of claims 22-25 and including moving the elongate element along the surface of the skin of an area from which hair is to be removed by hand.

27. A method of manufacturing a tensioned heat-generating wire, comprising:

positioning a wire on two separated posts, at least one of which is resilient in a direction along the wire axis;

25 tensioning the wire in a direction and by an amount sufficient to deform the posts so that the positions of the wire on the posts toward each other; and

fixing the wires in place so that they remain tensioned by the deformed post or posts.

28. A method according to claim 27 wherein at least one of the posts is provided with a guide for the wire and including:

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positioning the at least one wire guide;